Increase in Defence Budget

1314. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made heavy defence allocations in the current year's Budget as compared to the last three years' Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such a massive increase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the General Budget 2004-2005, the allocation for Defence Services has been kept at Rs. 77000 crores. The provision made in the budget for Defence expenditure during the last three years has been as under

(Rs. in crores)

	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2001-2002	62000.00	57000.00	54265.73
2002-2003	65000.00	56000.00	55661.83
2003-2004	65300.00	60300.00	60065.80 (P)

(P) Provisional

(c) The provision for the defence expenditure in Budget Estimates 2004-2005 has been made to meet the obligatory charges, essential maintenance requirement, committed liabilities and a few prioritised new schemes.

Defence Secretary talks between India and Pakistan

1315. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan had held Defence Secretary level talks in the month of August focusing on proposals of military de-escalation on Siachen glacier;

(b) if so, whether both India and Pakistan exchanged new proposals;